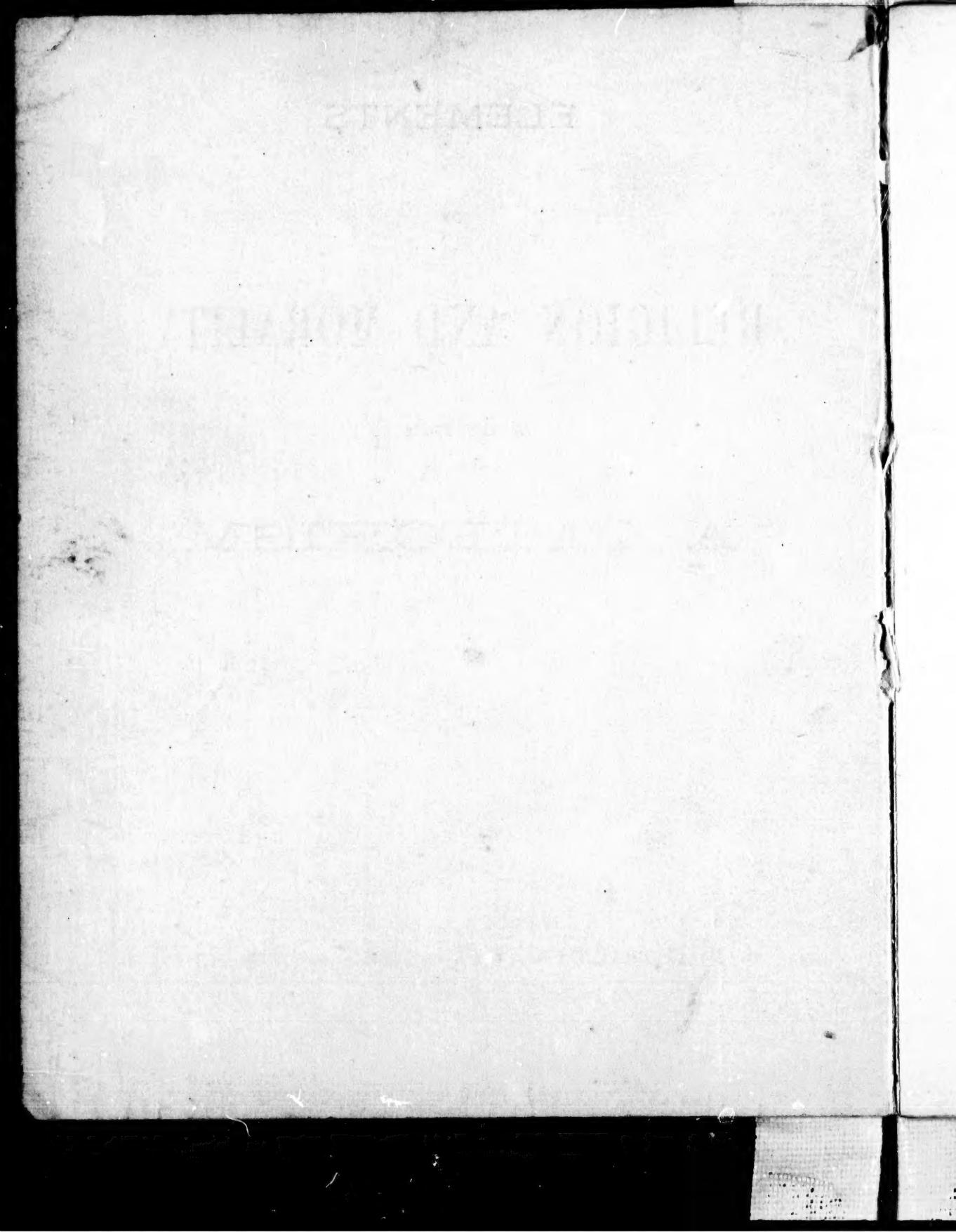


ELEMENTS

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ELEMENTS  
OF  
RELIGION AND MORALITY,  
IN THE FORM OF  
A CATECHISM.



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THIS little book is printed under the direction of the Vestry of the "Church of the Redeemer," for use in the Sunday School and families of the Church. It is, with a few slight changes, adopted from an English edition of Dr. Channing's works.

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# CATECHISM FOR CHILDREN.

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## I.

*Question.* Who made you?

*Answer.* 1. God made me.

2. He also made the sun, the moon, and the stars.

3. He made the sea and the dry land, the hills and the fields.

4. He made the grass, and the trees, and everything which grows upon the earth.

5. He made the beasts, the fishes, and the birds, and everything that has life.

6. God made all things in heaven and earth.

## II.

*Q.* What does God give you?

*A.* 1. He gives me life and strength.

2. He gives me power to see and hear, to speak and move.

3. He gives me reason, and conscience, and the means of improving in knowledge and goodness.

4. He gives me my kind parents, my teachers, my friends and my home.

5. He gives me my food, and clothes, and quiet sleep.

6. He gives me the air which I breathe, and the pleasant light which shines around me.

7. God gives me all that I have.

## III.

*Q.* Does God always see you?

- A.* 1. He sees me at all times, all the night and all the day.
- 2. He sees me when I am alone, when no other person sees me.
- 3. He knows all that I think and all that I do.
- 4. He knows all that I want, and hears me if I pray to Him for His care and blessing.

## IV.

*Q.* How must you feel towards God?

- A.* 1. I must often think of God as my Father in Heaven, and must regard everything I enjoy as his gift.
- 2. I must love Him better than I love any other being, and be happy to please and obey Him.
- 3. I must fear nothing so much as to offend Him.
- 4. I must never speak of Him in a careless manner, or take His name in vain.
- 5. I must pray to Him for what I need, especially in the morning and at night.
- 6. I must thank Him for what I receive, though it be not all that I wish.
- 7. I must bear patiently, and try to be better for the sickness and pain which He sees fit to bring upon me.

## V.

*Q.* How must you feel and act toward those around you?

- A.* 1. I must love and obey my parents, and be thankful to them for the tender care they take of me.
- 2. I must treat with respect those who are older than myself.

3. I must love my brothers and sisters, and must be generous and affectionate to my companions.

4. I must forgive those who have injured me ; and if I have injured any, I must ask their forgiveness.

5. I must pity the wretched, and be kind to the poor.

6. I must speak the truth, keep my promises, and never try to deceive by my looks, words or actions.

7. I must be honest, and must take nothing which belongs to others.

8. I must not be cruel, and must not willingly give pain to anything which has life.

9. I must try to make all around me happy ; God has given to all the power of doing good in some way or other.

## VI.

*Q.* What are your duties to yourself ?

*A.* 1. I must be active and industrious.

2. I must be ready and happy to learn.

3. I must be contented and cheerful, even when I cannot have what I want.

4. I must not be fretful, wilful or passionate.

5. I must not be proud or vain of anything which I have, but be modest and humble.

6. I must learn to give up and avoid everything which will do me hurt ; I must be governed by reason and conscience, and not by my wishes.

## VII.

*Q.* What good do you hope for by doing what is right ?

*A.* 1. I shall have peace in my own mind.

2. I shall not be ashamed or afraid to have my actions known.

3. I shall grow better and happier as I grow older.
4. My parents and friends will love me, and will look on me with pleasure and hope.
5. Above all, my Father in Heaven will love me, and delight to make me happy.

### VIII.

- Q.** What if you do wrong?
- A. 1. I shall feel pain, and fear, and shame, at thinking I have done wrong.
  2. I shall grow worse as I grow older.
  3. My parents and friends will be displeased with me, and will look on me with sorrow.
  4. Above all, God will be offended with me, and He will punish me unless I repent.

### IX.

- Q.** What do you mean by sinning against God?
- A.** To sin against God is to do anything which God forbids me, or not to do what God commands me.

### X.

- Q.** Have you ever sinned against God?
- A.** Yes. I feel that I have sinned—I have done what I have known to be wrong.

### XI.

- Q.** How should you feel and act when you are sensible you have sinned?
- A.** 1. I should remember my evil conduct with sorrow; and, as far as I can, I should repair it, and resolve and strive to do so no more.

2. I should humbly confess my sins to God, and should pray to Him through Jesus Christ to forgive me, and to assist me in doing better.

## XII.

*Q.* Who is Jesus Christ?

*A.* He is the well-beloved son of God, whom His Father sent into the world to save us from error and sin, death and misery.

## XIII.

*Q.* Can you repeat some of the principal instructions of Jesus Christ?

*A.* 1. He taught us the character of God; that He is the most holy and merciful, the greatest, and wisest, and best of beings.

2. He taught us that we should love God with all our hearts; that we should love all our fellow-creatures, and do unto others as we should wish and expect them to do to us.

3. He promised to us that when we believe in him, and confess and forsake our sins, and obey his instructions, we shall be forgiven, and live forever in heaven.

## XIV.

*Q.* Can you give some account of the life and example of Christ?

*A.* 1. He was perfectly good. He was holy, harmless and undefiled.

2. He grew up obeying his parents, and remembered his mother with tenderness in his dying moments.

3. He constantly thought of God, and prayed to Him; and it was his joy to do the will of his Heavenly Father.

4. He went about doing good ; healing the sick ; opening the eyes of the blind ; raising the dead ; and teaching the ignorant and poor.

5. He washed the feet of his disciples to teach them to be humble. He took little children in his arms and blessed them. He was full of compassion for the miserable, and even prayed for his murderers on the cross.

### XV.

*Q.* What did Jesus Christ suffer for us ?

*A.* 1. For our sakes he became poor and led a life of toil and hardship.

2. He was reviled, mocked and scourged by wicked men.

3. He was nailed to the cross, and shed his blood for the forgiveness of our sins.

### XVI.

*Q.* What became of Jesus after this cruel death ?

*A.* 1. He was buried, and, as he told his disciples before his death, he was restored to life, and rose again on the third day.

2. He ascended to Heaven where he still lives to pray for us, and continually performs kind offices for us.

### XVII.

*Q.* What do you learn by the resurrection of Christ from the dead ?

*A.* That I and all men shall in like manner live again in another world.

## XVIII.

*Q.* Shall you ever see Jesus Christ?

*A.* Yes; he is appointed to raise me from the dead, and will ever be my most loving and faithful friend.

## XIX.

*Q.* What may you hope in another world if you are good?

*A.* 1. I shall be welcomed into Heaven by my Saviour, and shall be ever under his care.

2. I shall have no sickness, nor sorrow, nor pain; but shall have rest and joy forever.

3. I shall be like the angels in heaven, and shall have the friendship and love of all good beings.

4. I shall enjoy the presence and favor of God, and shall be always learning to love and serve Him better.

## XX.

*Q.* But what if you are wicked?

*A.* I can then never be happy. The wicked must always be miserable.

2. I shall not be received into the light and joy of heaven.

3. God will leave me to the punishment which my sins deserve; and not till I repent and forsake my sins can I enjoy his presence, or find rest or happiness anywhere.

## XXI.

*Q.* What means must you use to become good and happy in this life and the life to come?

- A. 1. I must pray to God, without whose blessing I can do nothing, for his assistance and direction.
2. I must recollect at night what I have done, and thought, and felt through the day.
3. I must often think that God sees me.
4. I must shun wicked companions and try to obtain the friendship of the good.
5. I must set the example of Jesus Christ continually before me.
6. I must make a good use of the Lord's day, I must be serious and attentive at church, and must receive with gratitude the instruction of my parents at home.
7. When I am old enough I must partake of the Lord's Supper, which is designed to bring to my remembrance Jesus Christ dying for me.
8. I must often read and meditate upon the Bible, that best of books, in which God teaches us by His will and his infinite mercy through Jesus Christ.

